Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 02502 201040Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /029 W
----------201042Z 016420 /15
P 201000Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2446

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2502

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, CG, US
SUBJECT: PAN AM-AIR ZAIRE RELATIONS

REF: STATE 57063

1. DURING MEETING MARCH 18 I RAISED PAN AM CONTRACT AGAIN WITH MOBUTU. MAKING CLEAR I WAS SPEAKING AS CONCERNED OBSERVER RATHER THAN ON PAN AM'S BEHALF, I NOTED THAT CURRENT SERIOUS SITUATION IN ZAIRE WOULD SEEM TO REQUIRE MAXIMUM UTILIZATION OF ALL POSSIBLE RESOURCES, INCLUDING AIR TRANSPORT. I WONDERED IF, IN VIEW OF SITUATION, THIS WAS REALLY THE BEST TIME TO WITHDRAW ENTIRE PAN AM TEAM.

2. MOBUTU SAID HE UNDERSTOOD MY CONCERN AND WOULD TALK IT OVER WITH AIR ZAIRE DIRECTOR, GENERAL MOLONGYA.

3. MOBUTU'S REACTION WAS NOT NEGATIVE, ALTHOUGH I HAVE NO INDICATION OF WHAT ACTION HE MAY TAKE. JOE GATT TELLS ME MOLONGYA NOW FAVORS RETAINING PAN AM TRAINING TEAM (ABOUT 7-8 TECHNICIANS) AND HAVING GATT HIMSELF SERVE AS PAN AM ADVISOR TO AIR ZAIRE. GATT IS NOT AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT MOLONGYA HAS YET MADE ANY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO MOBUTU. GATT'S RELATIONS WITH MOLONGYA, INCIDENTALLY, HAVE IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY.

4. WE WILL FOLLOW UP ON THIS ONE AS NECESSARY.
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 02502 201040Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: AVIATION AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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